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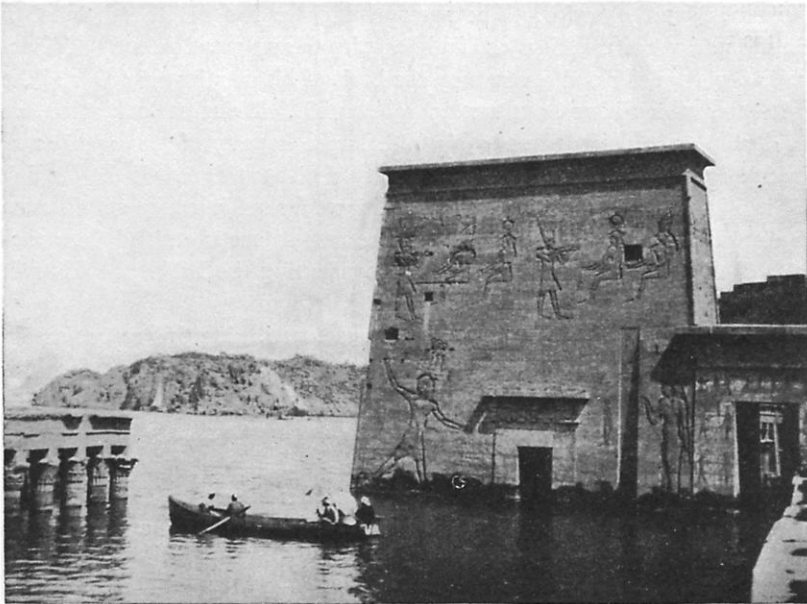
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Exploration and Discovery

THE GREAT ASSUAN DAM AND THE MONUMENTS OF NUBIA

It has been decided by the government of Egypt to raise the great dam at Assuan seven meters above its present level. This means that the country above the dam will be inundated far beyond the limits of the present lake, already as large as that of Geneva in Switzerland. While the results may be very gratifying in the economic development of the



A TEMPLE AT PHILAE, SUBMERGED TO THE CAPITALS

Nile valley below Assuan, such results are not likely to compensate the archaeologists and the cultivated public interested in the monuments and remains of early civilization to be buried thus under many feet of water. The government has foreseen this dissatisfaction and has appropriated several hundred thousand dollars for the investigation and conservation of the ancient remains to be endangered or destroyed, particularly the early cemeteries which will be flooded.

The beautiful temple of Isis on the Island of Philae, already sadly injured by the invading waters, which at present rise almost to the capitals of the columns, will, after the raising of the dam, be completely submerged, with the possible exception of the very summits of the tall pylon towers. Such submergence year by year must of course result in the slow disintegration of the stone, and the ultimate complete destruction of what has been the loveliest building in Egypt. The loss to the modern visitor is but the beginning; for the numerous records and inscriptions on the walls have never been properly copied and published. The same is true of the other Ptolemaic temples, forming a group extending along the river for forty miles above the Assuan dam. The work of the University of Chicago Expedition, in recording permanently and thus preserving all the inscribed monuments of Nubia, extended down to, but did not include these temples. It is very gratifying therefore that the Royal Academy of Berlin has secured a grant of government funds for the purpose of continuing down to the dam this work of rescuing the Egyptian monuments of Nubia so nearly completed by the Chicago expedition. In the conduct of this work the director of the Royal German Expedition, Professor Schaefer, director of the Egyptian Museum at Berlin, has adopted the field methods developed in the course of the Chicago expedition by Breasted, purchased the entire epigraphic equipment of the Chicago expedition, and secured also part of its staff. With the disinterestedness characteristic of German science the records of the Berlin expedition will be placed at the disposal of Professor Breasted, director of the Chicago expedition, to be embodied in his corpus of the monuments of Nubia.

A SCIENTIFIC FORGERY

Readers of Herodotus will recall his interesting account of the circumnavigation of Africa by an expedition sent out by Pharaoh Necho, about 600 B. C. Doubt has in modern times been cast upon this story of the father of history. Some weeks ago a communication read before the French Academy announced the discovery of contemporary evidence specifically recording the event narrated by Herodotus. It was in the form of two scarabs, or sacred beetles, cut in stone, inscribed with a narrative of the return of the expedition. One of the scarabs (now in Paris) purported to be issued by the king, and the other (now in Brussels) by the commander of the expedition. It now transpires, that some time before the French and the Belgians secured the documents, copies of the inscriptions they bear had been offered to Professors Erman and Schaefer